



Church of Christ

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Heart to Heart...

Jesus understood false spirituality and true spirituality. In Matthew 23, Jesus addresses a multitude and His disciples about the Pharisees. The Pharisees were the ones who instructed and taught others about God. They were looked on as *Aspiritual men* until Jesus exposed things.

ATherefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them. (23:3) The Pharisees could talk about right matters but that's all. They weren't spiritual and their own lives reflected that. They burdened others with their demands without offering any help. (23:4) They did their *Aspiritual* deeds to be noticed by others. (23:5) They loved places of honor and wanted special attention at gatherings. (23:6) Respectful greetings were expected as it was a sign of spiritual superiority! (23:7) They talked good and made a good showing but they were unspiritual.

Jesus states what true, genuine spiritual people are and do. **A**But the greatest among you shall be your servant. (23:11) We don't talk much about being servants. There's not any flash to serving others. Some will serve as long as it is a recognized opportunity, as long as they are recognized. To reach out, to go out of our way, to do things that cost us time and effort means we have to forfeit some enjoyment. Servanthood is the heart of the spiritual! How do you recognize a spiritual person? Look at their attitude toward the Lord and their service to others. Look at those who quietly serve with a whole heart, those who do the difficult things. The thankless opportunities they willingly do out of appreciation for their Lord. Look at those who always are eager to help. These are true, spiritual men and women of God. It's these that Jesus spoke of as *the greatest*.

To grow spiritually it takes two things: (1) A willingness to put into practice the word of righteousness. **A**For everyone who takes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. (Heb. 5:13-14) True spiritual people can discern things while those claiming to be spiritual have no discernment. They only deceive themselves and like the Pharisees, *are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger*. (Matt. 23:4) Remember who killed Jesus? Those who claimed to be spiritual! (2) Looking at the effect the word of God has on one's conduct. **A**Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. (Heb. 13:7) You can't talk about the Word, claiming to be spiritual and not have proper conduct. You have to put into practice the Word. It has to have meaning to you or else it's just empty words.

People can do a lot of good, but their motives for doing it can be wrong. That's being unspiritual. Our motives have to be pure. What are we at best? **SERVANTS!** How did we get to be servants? By the grace of God. It was a matter of His mercy and grace that we can walk in His world. It has never been or ever will be because of who we think we are. The spiritual understand this. The unspiritual don't concern themselves with serving. What about you? Are you growing into a spiritual person, into the image of Christ? Think about it!!!

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